



County of San Luis Obispo, California

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Elizabeth Kavanaugh (805) 781-4089

SUBJECT: Chorro Valley Trail -Camp San Luis Obispo Easement

DATE: Decemeber 10, 2015

Recommendations:

Recommend to the Board of Supervisors: 1) creation of a capital project "Chorro Valley Trail -Camp San Luis Obispo Easement"; 2) Transfer \$35,000 from the Park Reserves account into the new "Chorro Valley Trail -Camp San Luis Obispo Easement" project, and 3) approve, and authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between The Parks and Recreation Department and the State of California Military Department, Camp San Luis Obispo that outlines the terms in which State of California Military Department, Camp San Luis Obispo will offer an easement for the Chorro Valley Trail and terms in which the County can construct and maintain this trail in the future.

Discussion:

The proposed Chorro Valley Trail would be a 12-mile trail located adjacent to but separated from Highway 1, connecting the existing bicycle routes in the City of San Luis Obispo to the City of Morro Bay. This trail would connect the two cities along with other significant locations such as California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, Cuesta College, Camp San Luis Obispo, and El Chorro Regional Park. San Luis Obispo Council of Governments' Board approved this Trail Master Plan in 2014. The proposed trail is consistent with the County's Parks and Recreation Element, Estero Area Plan and the County Bikeways Plan.

Support of this request will allow the Parks and Recreation Department (County Parks) to take the necessary steps needed to accept a 1.4- mile easement from the State of California Military Department, Camp San Luis Obispo (Camp San Luis) on their property northwest of the City of San Luis Obispo for the future Chorro Valley Trail.

County Parks has been working with Camp San Luis to locate an area for the trail easement that would allow for public trail use on Camp San Luis Obispo that would not hinder the on-going military use of the

site and what measures are necessary to allow this public use. A suitable location has been identified on the east side of Highway 1 as close to the highway as possible.

The attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the conditions for public access on this easement. The MOU provides a framework of what is expected from County Parks during the construction of the trail (fencing and signs) and operation of the trail (allow Camp SLO to reoccupy premises during times of emergency).

The preparation of the easement agreement will include the provision of survey legal descriptions and exhibits for the trail easement. It is estimated that surveying costs will be approximately \$35,000. Funding for surveying costs is available from the Park Reserves account. The ultimate 12-mile trail would expand transportation choices in San Luis Obispo County, enhance safety for bicyclist and pedestrians, and serve as an asset for recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, and economic vitality. The area's mild weather allows thousands of people to travel by foot and bicycle year round along this proposed trail network. By providing a safe, direct and scenic route for bicyclists and pedestrians along the Highway 1 corridor, the trail will facilitate a reduction in vehicle miles traveled, advancing federal, state, and local goals and objectives to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The County Trails Advisory Committee and Bicycle Advisory Committee reviewed this item at their joint meeting on November 10, 2015 and support this effort.

Other Agency Involvement:

San Luis Obispo Council of Government Board approved the Chorro Valley Trail Master Plan;
County Counsel reviewed the MOU

Attachments

1. Vicinity Map
2. Easement Location
3. Memorandum of Understanding